



18/c 723  
11-14-03

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|                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Typed or Printed Name | Maria J. Sousa        |
| Signature             | <i>Maria J. Sousa</i> |
| Date                  | May 14, 2003          |

*L. Ellis*  
*H/5/04*

|                                                                                                                                          |                                  |                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>AMENDMENT UNDER<br/>37 C.F.R. §1.116</b><br><br>Address to:<br>Box AF<br>Assistant Commissioner for Patents<br>Washington, D.C. 20231 | Attorney Docket Confirmation No. | GUID012CON<br>5237                                |
|                                                                                                                                          | First Named Inventor             | Lawrence W. Hu, <i>et al.</i>                     |
|                                                                                                                                          | Application Number               | 09/900,503                                        |
|                                                                                                                                          | Filing Date                      | July 6, 2001                                      |
|                                                                                                                                          | Group Art Unit                   | 3732                                              |
|                                                                                                                                          | Examiner Name                    | Smith, Jeffrey A.                                 |
|                                                                                                                                          | Title                            | SURGICAL RETRACTOR<br>PLATFORM BLADE<br>APPARATUS |

Sir:

This amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action dated March 14, 2003 for which a three-month period for response was given making this response due on or before June 14, 2003. In view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks put forth below, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. Applicants have attached to this amendment a "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made" wherein all of the amendments requested here are put forth with underlining and bracketing.

Applicants submit that the amendments set forth below raise no new issues. Rather, the amendments place the claims in form for allowance or in better form for appeal. Entry of these amendments is thus respectfully requested.

enter - Rule 114 Jan 4/3/03

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01 FC:1202 36.00 CH  
02 FC:1201 84.00 CH

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 8 as follows:

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MAY 27 2003

**GROUP 3600**

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MAY 22 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

8. (Twice Amended) A surgical retractor blade, said retractor blade comprising a polymeric body having a first end adapted to attach to a separate, complete driving mechanism, a second end, a channel adapted to engage one side of an incision in a patient, and a rail extending along at least a portion of said polymeric body.

*C1*